

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
22 August 2002 (22.08.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/064584 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07D 401/04**, 237/32, A61K 31/50, C07D 407/04, A61K 31/4427, A61P 29/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP02/01547

(22) International Filing Date: 14 February 2002 (14.02.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
01103496.4 15 February 2001 (15.02.2001) EP(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEMISCHE FABRIK GMBH** [DE/DE]; Byk-Gulden-Strasse 2, 78467 Konstanz (DE).(72) Inventors (for all designated States except CA, US): **HATZELMANN, Armin**; Alter Wall 3, 78467 Konstanz (DE). **BUNDSCSUH, Daniela**; Rheingutstrasse 17, 78462 Konstanz (DE). **KLEY, Hans-Peter**; Im Weinberg 3b, 78476 Allensbach (DE). **TIMMERMAN, Hendrik**; Wyttenbachweg 73, NL-2343 Oegstgeest (NL). **CHRISTIAANS, Johannes, A., M.**; Zevenwouden 233, NL-3524 CR Utrecht (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GRUNDLER, Gerhard** [DE/DE]; Meersburger Str. 4, 78464 Konstanz (DE). **GUTTERER, Beate** [DE/DE]; Allensbacher Str. 5, 78476 Allensbach (DE). **STERK, Geert, Jan** [NL/NL]; Stadhouderslaan 38, NL-3583 JJ Utrecht (NL).(74) Common Representative: **BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEMISCHE FABRIK GMBH**; Byk-Gulden-Strasse 2, 78467 Konstanz (DE).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AU, BA, BG, BR, CA, CN, CO, CU, CZ, DZ, EC, EE, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KR, LT, LV, MA, MK, MX, NO, NZ, PH, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, TN, UA, US, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

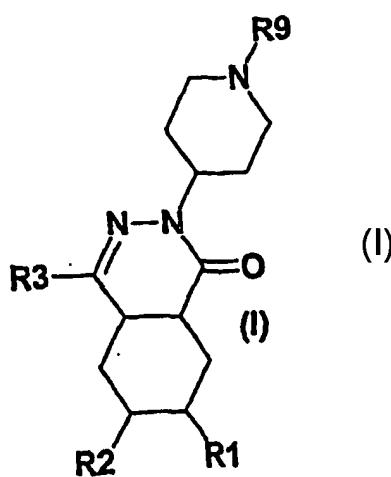
Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PHTHALAYINONE-PIPERIDINO-DERIVATIVES AS PDE4 INHIBITORS

(57) Abstract: The compounds of a formula I, in which the given substituents have the meanings as given in the description, are novel effective PDE4 inhibitors.



WO 02/064584 A1

PHTHALAZINONE-PIPERIDINO-DERIVATIVES AS PDE4 INHIBITORS

Field of application of the invention

The invention relates to novel piperidino-derivatives, which are used in the pharmaceutical industry for the production of medicaments.

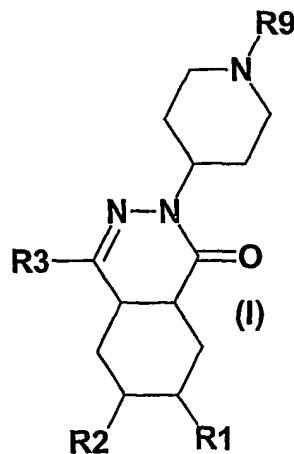
Known technical background

International Patent Applications WO98/31674 (= USP 6,103,718), WO99/31071, WO99/31090 and WO99/47505 (= USP 6,255,303) disclose phthalazinone derivatives having selective PDE4 inhibitory properties. In the International Patent Application WO94/12461 and in the European Patent Application EP 0 763 534 3-aryl-pyridazin-6-one and arylalkyl-diazinone derivatives are described as selective PDE4 inhibitors. International Patent Application WO93/07146 (= USP 5,716,954) discloses benzo and pyrido pyridazinone and pyridazinthione compounds with PDEIV inhibiting activity.

Description of the invention

It has now been found that the piperidino-derivatives, which are described in greater details below, have surprising and particularly advantageous properties.

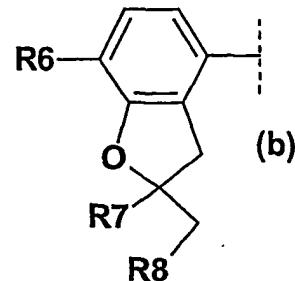
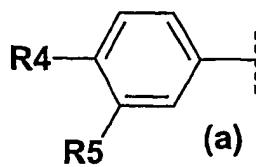
The invention thus relates to compounds of formula I



in which

R1 and R2 are both hydrogen or together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



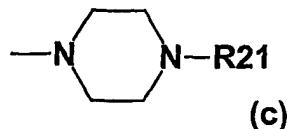
wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
 R5 is 1-8C-alkoxy, 3-7C-cycloalkoxy, 3-7C-cycloalkylmethoxy, or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
 R6 is 1-4C-alkoxy, 3-5C-cycloalkoxy, 3-5C-cycloalkylmethoxy, or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
 R7 is 1-4C-alkyl and
 R8 is hydrogen or 1-4C-alkyl,

or wherein

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a spiro-linked 5-, 6- or 7-membered hydrocarbon ring, optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom,

- R9 is 1-4C-alkyl, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{R10}$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{R11}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{R12}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R13}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{R14}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R15}$, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-4C-alkyl-Aryl2,
- R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, $-\text{N}(\text{R16})\text{R17}$, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19,
- R11 is $-\text{N}(\text{R16})\text{R17}$,
- R12 is $-\text{N}(\text{R16})\text{R17}$,
- R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or $-\text{N}(\text{R16})\text{R17}$,
- R14 is $-\text{N}(\text{R16})\text{R17}$,
- R15 is $-\text{N}(\text{R16})\text{R17}$, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,
- R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-7C-alkyl, 3-7C-cycloalkyl, 3-7C-cycloalkylmethyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl-, 1-pyrrolidinyl-, 1-piperidinyl-, 1-hexahydroazepino- or a 1-piperazinyl-ring of formula (c)



wherein

R21 is pyrid-4-yl, pyrid-4-ylmethyl, 1-4C-alkyl-dimethylamino, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, 4-morpholino-ethyl or tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl,

R18 is halogen, nitro, cyano, carboxyl, 1-4C-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, 1-4C-alkoxy, 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono-or di-1-4C-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl 1-4C-alkylcarbonylamino or mono-or di-1-4C-alkylaminocarbonyl,

R19 is halogen, amino, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,

R20 is halogen,

Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, thi-azolyl, imidazolyl or furanyl,

Aryl1 is pyridyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19,

Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,

n is an integer from 1 to 4,

m is an integer from 1 to 4,

and the salts of these compounds.

1-4C-Alkyl is a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Examples are the butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, propyl, isopropyl, ethyl and methyl radicals.

1-4C-Alkoxy is a radical which, in addition to the oxygen atom, contains a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Alkoxy radicals having 1 to 4 carbon atoms which may be mentioned in this context are, for example, the butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, ethoxy and methoxy radicals.

1-8C-Alkoxy is a radical which, in addition to the oxygen atom, contains a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 8 carbon atoms. Alkoxy radicals having 1 to 8 carbon atoms which may be mentioned in this context are, for example, the octyloxy, heptyloxy, isoheptyloxy (5-methylhexyloxy), hexyloxy, isohexyloxy (4-methylpentyloxy), neohexyloxy (3,3-dimethylbutoxy), pentyloxy, isopentyloxy (3-methylbutoxy), neopentyloxy (2,2-dimethylpropoxy), butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, ethoxy and methoxy radicals.

Halogen within the meaning of the present invention is bromine, chlorine or fluorine.

3-7C-Cycloalkoxy stands for cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy, cyclopentyloxy, cyclohexyloxy or cycloheptyloxy, of which cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy and cyclopentyloxy are preferred.

3-7C-Cycloalkylmethoxy stands for cyclopropylmethoxy, cyclobutylmethoxy, cyclopentylmethoxy, cyclohexylmethoxy or cycloheptylmethoxy, of which cyclopropylmethoxy, cyclobutylmethoxy and cyclopentylmethoxy are preferred.

3-5C-Cycloalkoxy stands for cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy and cyclopentyloxy.

3-5C-Cycloalkylmethoxy stands for cyclopropylmethoxy, cyclobutylmethoxy and cyclopentylmethoxy.

1-4C-Alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine is, for example, the 2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy, the perfluoroethoxy, the 1,2,2-trifluoroethoxy and in particular the 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy, the 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy, the trifluoromethoxy and the difluoromethoxy radical, of which the difluoromethoxy radical is preferred. "Predominantly" in this connection means that more than half of the hydrogen atoms of the 1-4C-alkoxy group are replaced by fluorine atoms.

As spiro-linked 5-, 6- or 7-membered hydrocarbon rings, optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom, may be mentioned the cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran and the tetrahydrothiophen ring.

1-4C-Alkylcarbonyl is a carbonyl group to which one of the abovementioned 1-4C-alkyl radicals is bonded. An example is the acetyl radical $[\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})]$.

An 1-4C-Alkylcarbonylamino radical is, for example, the propionylamino $[\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}]$ and the acetylamino radical $[\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}]$.

Mono- or Di-1-4C-alkylamino radicals contain in addition to the nitrogen atom, one or two of the abovementioned 1-4C-alkyl radicals. Preferred are the di-1-4C-alkylamino radicals, especially the dimethylamino, the diethylamino and the diisopropylamino radical.

Mono- or Di-1-4C-alkylaminocarbonyl radicals contain in addition to the carbonyl group one of the abovementioned mono- or di-1-4C-alkylamino radicals. Examples which may be mentioned are the N-methyl- the N,N-dimethyl-, the N-ethyl-, the N-propyl-, the N,N-diethyl- and the N-isopropylaminocarbonyl radical.

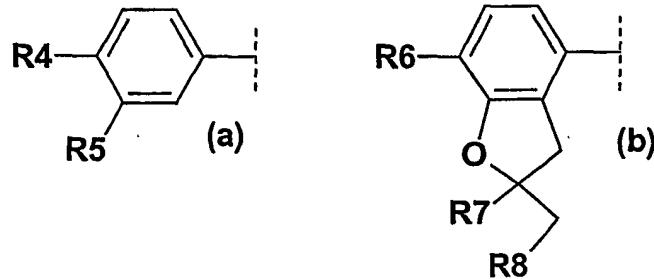
Suitable salts for compounds of the formula I are all acid addition salts. Particular mention may be made of the pharmacologically tolerable inorganic and organic acids customarily used in pharmacy. Those suitable are water-soluble and water-insoluble acid addition salts with acids such as, for example, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, acetic acid, citric acid, D-gluconic acid, benzoic acid, 2-(4-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, butyric acid, sulphosalicylic acid, maleic acid, lauric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, embonic

acid, stearic acid, toluenesulphonic acid, methanesulphonic acid or 3-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, the acids being employed in salt preparation - depending on whether a mono- or polybasic acid is concerned and depending on which salt is desired - in an equimolar quantitative ratio or one differing therefrom.

Pharmacologically intolerable salts, which can be obtained, for example, as process products during the preparation of the compounds according to the invention on an industrial scale, are converted into pharmacologically tolerable salts by processes known to the person skilled in the art.

According to expert's knowledge the compounds of the invention as well as their salts may contain, e.g. when isolated in crystalline form, varying amounts of solvents. Included within the scope of the invention are therefore all solvates and in particular all hydrates of the compounds of formula I as well as all solvates and in particular all hydrates of the salts of the compounds of formula I.

Compound of formula I to be emphasized are those in which
R1 and R2 are both hydrogen or together form an additional bond,
R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-2C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
R5 is 1-4C-alkoxy,

R6 is 1-2C-alkoxy or 1-2C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R7 is methyl and

R8 is hydrogen,

or wherein

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a spiro-linked cyclopentane, cyclohexane, tetrahydrofuran or tetrahydropyran ring,

R9 is 1-4C-alkyl, -S(O)₂-R10, -S(O)₂-(CH₂)_n-R11, -C(O)R13, -C(O)-(CH₂)_n-R14, -(CH₂)_m-C(O)-R15, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-2C-alkyl-Aryl2,

R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,

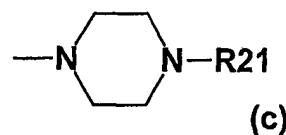
R11 is $-N(R16)R17$,

R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or $-N(R16)R17$,

R14 is $-N(R16)R17$,

R15 is $-N(R16)R17$, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,

R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-4C-alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl ring, a 1-piperidinyl ring or a 1-piperazinyl ring of formula (c)



wherein

R21 is pyrid-4-yl, pyrid-4-ylmethyl, dimethylamino-1-4C-alkyl, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, 4-morpholino-ethyl or tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl,

R18 is halogen, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl,

R19 is halogen, amino, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,

R20 is halogen,

Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl or 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl,

Aryl1 is pyridyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,

Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,

n is 1 or 2,

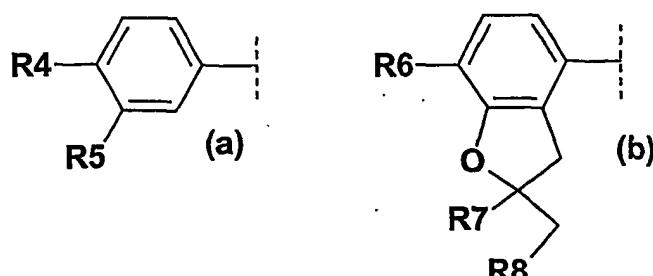
m is 1 or 2,

and the salts of these compounds.

Preferred compounds of formula I are those, in which

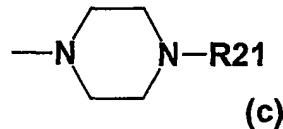
R1 and R2 together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R5 is 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R6 is 1-2C-alkoxy,
 R7 is methyl and
 R8 is hydrogen,
 R9 is 1-4C-alkyl, -S(O)₂-R10, -C(O)R13, -C(O)-(CH₂)_n-R14, -(CH₂)_m-C(O)-R15, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-2C-alkyl-Aryl2,
 R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,
 R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or -N(R16)R17,
 R14 is -N(R16)R17,
 R15 is -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,
 R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-4C-alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl ring or a 1-piperazinyl ring of formula (c)



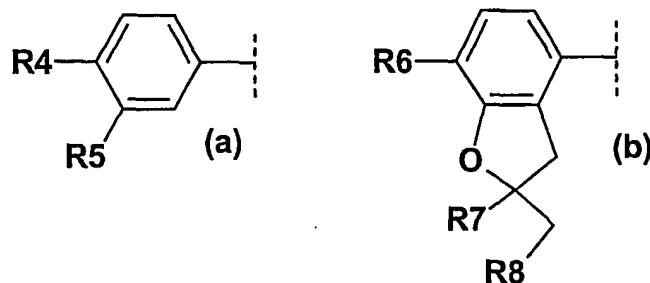
wherein

R21 is dimethylamino-1-4C-alkyl,
 R18 is halogen, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl,
 R19 is amino,
 R20 is halogen,
 Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl or 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl,
 Aryl1 is phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,
 Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,
 n is 1 or 2,
 m is 1 or 2,
 and the salts of these compounds.

Particularly preferred compounds of formula I are those in which

R1 and R2 together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



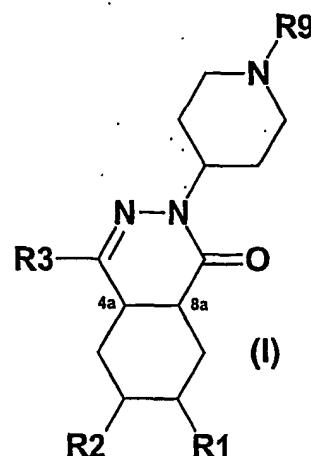
wherein

- R4 is methoxy or ethoxy,
- R5 is methoxy or ethoxy,
- R6 is methoxy or ethoxy,
- R7 is methyl and
- R8 is hydrogen,
- R9 is toluene-4-sulfonyl, methanesulfonyl, acetyl, 5-oxo-pentanoic acid, pyridin-4-yl-carbonyl, tert-butylaminocarbonyl, phenylaminocarbonyl, 5-dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonyl, 4-nitrophenyl, pyridin-4-ylmethyl, morpholine-4-carbonyl, 2-(4-amino-3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, pyrimidin-2-yl, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-ylmethyl, isopropyl, morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, phenethyl, pyridin-3-ylmethyl, pyridin-2-ylmethyl, pyridin-4-ylmethyl, 2-morpholin-4-ylethanoyl, 2-[4-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-ethanoyl, isopropylaminocarbonylmethyl, 4-ethyl-piperazine-2,3-dione-1-carbonyl, 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)-benzyl, 4-ethoxycarbonylphenylamino-2-oxo-ethyl or amino-carbonylmethyl,

and the salts of these compounds.

The compounds of formula I are chiral compounds. Chiral centers exist in the compounds of formula I in the positions 4a and 8a. In case R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (b) there is one further chiral center in the dihydrofuran-ring, if the substituents -R7 and -CH₂R8 are not identical. However, preferred are in this connection those compounds, in which the substituents -R7 and -CH₂R8 are identical or together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms to which they are bonded form a spiro-connected 5-, 6- or 7-membered hydrocarbon ring.

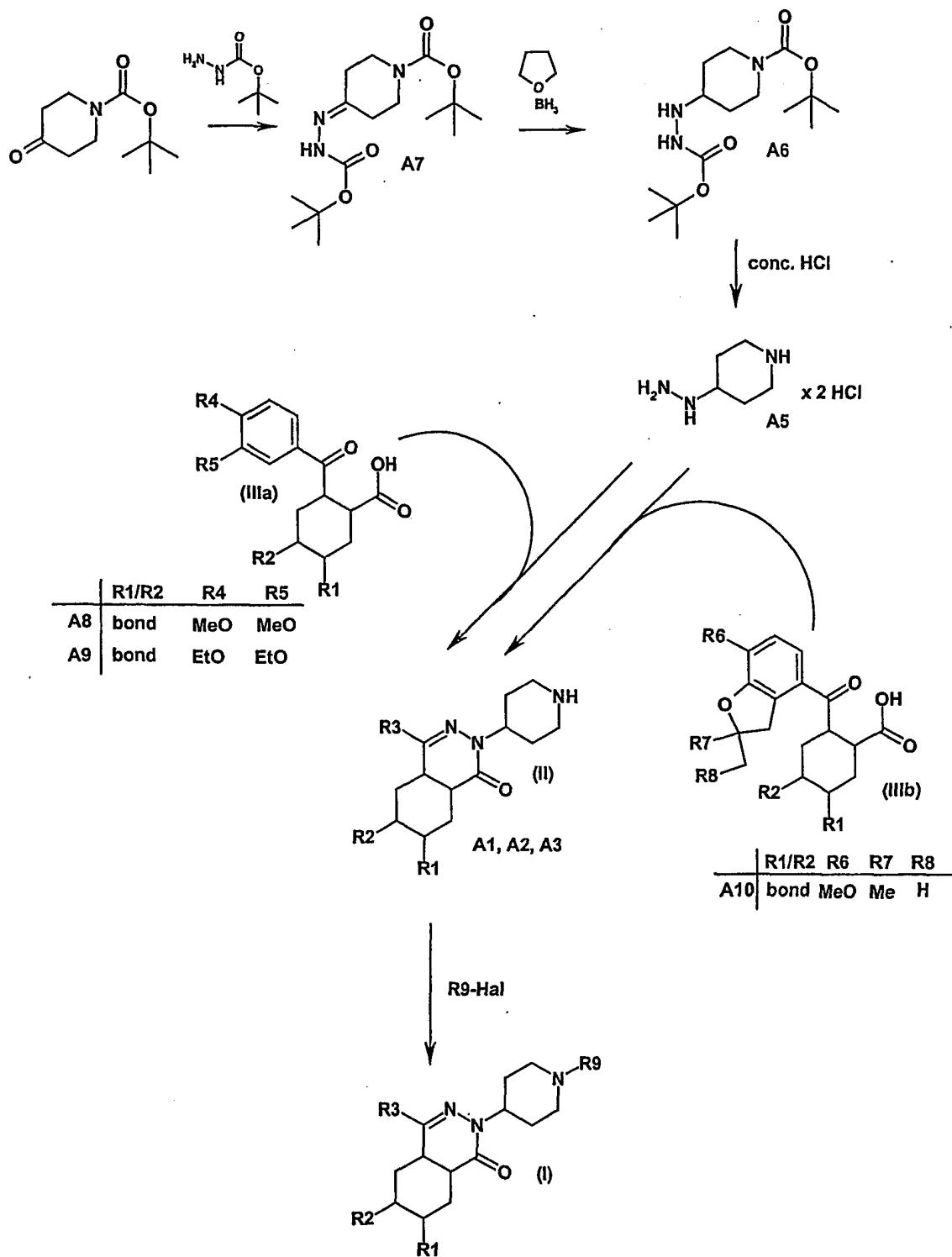
- 9 -

Numbering:

Therefore the invention includes all conceivable pure diastereomers and pure enantiomers of the compounds of formula I, as well as all mixtures thereof independent from the ratio, including the racemates. Preferred are those compounds of formula I, in which the hydrogen atoms in the positions 4a and 8a are cis-configurated. Especially preferred in this connection are those compounds, in which the absolute configuration (according to the rules of Cahn, Ingold and Prelog) is S in the position 4a and R in the position 8a. Racemates can be split up into the corresponding enantiomers by methods known by a person skilled in the art. Preferably the racemic mixtures are separated into two diastereomers during the preparation with the help of an optical active separation agent on the stage of the cyclohexane-carboxylic acids or the 1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acids (for example, starting compounds A1, A2 and A3). As separation agents may be mentioned, for example, optical active amines such as the (+)- and (-)-forms of 1-phenylethylamine [(R)-(+)-1-phenylethylamine = (R)-(+)- α -methylbenzylamine or (S)-(-)-1-phenylethylamine = (S)-(-)- α -methylbenzylamine) and ephedrine, the optical active alkaloids quinine, cinchonine, cinchonidine and brucine.

The compounds according to the invention can be prepared, for example, as described in Reaction scheme 1.

Reaction scheme 1:



Reaction scheme 1 shows that the compounds of formula I can be, for example, prepared starting from 4-oxo-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester which is reacted in a first reaction step with tert-

butylcarbazate to give 4-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl-hydrazono)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (starting compound A7). Compound A7 is reduced with, for example, the boran tetrahydrofuran complex to give 4-(N'-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-hydrazino)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (starting compound A6). Treatment of compound A6 with concentrated hydrochloric acid results in the formation of piperidin-4-yl-hydrazine dihydrochloride (starting compound A5).

The reaction of piperidin-4-yl-hydrazine dihydrochloride with cyclohexanecarboxylic acids or 1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acids of formulae IIIa or IIIb leads to the piperidino derivatives of formula II.

These are reacted in the final reaction step with compounds of formula R9-X, wherein X represents a suitable leaving group, preferably a chlorine atom, to give the compounds of formula I.

For some compounds of formula I, it can be advantageous, to introduce the substituent R9 in two reaction steps. As example may be mentioned those compounds of formula I, wherein R9 represents morpholin-4-ylethanoyl. Here, the corresponding compounds of formula II are reacted in a first step with chloroacetylchloride and then in a second step with morpholine.

Suitably, the conversions are carried out analogous to methods which are familiar per se to the person skilled in the art, for example, in the manner which is described in the following examples.

The preparation of the cyclohexanecarboxylic acids and 1,3,5,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acids of the formulae IIIa or IIIb is described, for example, in WO98/31674, WO99/31090 and WO99/47505.

The substances according to the invention are isolated and purified in a manner known per se, e.g. by distilling off the solvent in *vacuo* and recrystallising the residue obtained from a suitable solvent or subjecting it to one of the customary purification methods, such as column chromatography on a suitable support material.

Salts are obtained by dissolving the free compound in a suitable solvent (for example a ketone like acetone, methylethylketone, or methylisobutylketone, an ether, like diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane, a chlorinated hydrocarbon, such as methylene chloride or chloroform, or a low molecular weight aliphatic alcohol, such as ethanol, isopropanol) which contains the desired acid, or to which the desired acid is then added. The salts are obtained by filtering, reprecipitating, precipitating with a non-solvent for the addition salt or by evaporating the solvent. Salts obtained can be converted by basification into the free compounds which, in turn, can be converted into salts. In this manner, pharmacologically non-tolerable salts can be converted into pharmacologically tolerable salts.

The following examples illustrate the invention in greater detail, without restricting it. As well, further compounds of formula I, of which the preparation is explicitly not described, can be prepared in an

analogous way or in a way which is known by a person skilled in the art using customary preparation methods.

The compounds, which are mentioned in the examples as well as their salts are preferred compounds of the invention.

ExamplesFinal products**1. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one**

A solution of 1.0 g of starting compound A2 and 1.0 g of p-toluenesulfonyl chloride in 50 ml of pyridine is stirred at RT for 18 h after which the mixture is evaporated. The residue is partitioned between aqueous sodium carbonate and dichloromethane. The dichloromethane layer is dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated. The compound is crystallised from methanol. M. p. 99-101°C

2. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-methanesulfonyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from methanesulfonylchloride and starting compound A2 as described for compound 1. Crystallisation from methanol / water. M. p. 99-102°C

3. (4aS,8aR)-2-(1-Acetyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4-(3,4-diethoxyphenyl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from acetic anhydride and starting compound A2 as described for compound 1. Crystallised from diethyl ether. M. p. 148-150°C

4. 5-[4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxy-phenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl]-5-oxo-pentanoic acid

Prepared from glutaric anhydride and starting compound A2 as described for compound 1. After evaporating the pyridine, the residue is partitioned between ethyl acetate and 1N hydrochloric acid. The ethyl acetate solution is dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated. Crystallisation from diethyl ether. M. p. 133-135°C

5. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(1-pyridin-4-yl-methanoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from isonicotinoyl chloride hydrochloride and starting compound A2 as described for compound 1. After evaporating the dichloromethane solution, the residue is dissolved in diethyl ether. After addition of a saturated solution of hydrochloric acid in ether, the titel compound precipitates. M. p. 66-68°C

6. 4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butylamide

A mixture of 1.0 g of starting compound A2, 0.5 g of t-butylisocyanate and 2 ml of triethylamine in 50 ml of tetrahydrofuran is stirred for 18 h at RT. After evaporating the solution, the residue is partitioned

between water and ethyl acetate. Crystallisation from a mixture of dichloromethane and petroleum ether (60-80°C). M. p. 145-148°C

7. 4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid phenylamide

Prepared from starting compound A2 and phenylisocyanate as described for compound 6. Crystallisation from ether. M. p. 109-112°C

8. 4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butylamide

Prepared from starting compound A1 and t-butyliisocyanate as described for compound 6. Crystallisation from ether. M. p. 164-166°C

9. (cis)-4-[4-(7-Methoxy-2,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-4-yl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butylamide

Prepared from starting compound A3 and t-butyliisocyanate as described for compound 6. Crystallisation from ether. M. p. 145-147°C

10. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(5-dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from dansylchloride and starting compound A1 as described for compound 1. Crystallisation from methanol. M. p. 198-200°C

11. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(4-nitro-phenyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

A mixture of 1.0 g of compound A1, 1.0 g of 1-iodo-4-nitrobenzene and 1.0 g of potassium carbonate in 20 ml of dimethylformamide is stirred for 18 h at RT after which 100 ml of water is added to the reaction mixture. The precipitate is filtered off and crystallised from methanol. M. p. 196-197°C

12. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from starting compound A1 and 4-picolychloride hydrochloride as described for compound 11. After the addition of 100 ml of water, 20 ml of diethyl ether is added and the resulting mixture stirred for 30 min. The precipitate is filtered off and dried. M. p. 196-197°C.

13. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from 4-morpholinocarbonyl chloride and compound A1 as described for compound 1. Crystallisation from diethyl ether. M. p. 184-185°C

14. (4aS,8aR)-2-[1-[2-(4-Amino-3,5-dichloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperidin-4-yl]-4-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from (4-Amino-3,5-dichloro-phenyl)-2-bromo-ethanone and starting compound A1 as described for compound 11. After the addition of water, the mixture is extracted with diethyl ether. The ether solution is dried over magnesium sulfate. After the addition of a saturated solution of hydrochloric acid in ether, the compound precipitates. Crystallisation from tetrahydrofuran.

M. p. 206°C (decomposition).

15. 4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one

Prepared from 4-Chloro-7-methyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine and starting compound A1 as described for compound 11. Crystallisation from methanol. M. p. 193-194°C

16. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from 4-Chloro-thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidine and starting compound A1 as described for compound 11. After the addition of water, the mixture is extracted with diethyl ether. The ether solution is dried over magnesium sulfate. After the addition of a saturated solution of hydrochloric acid in ether, the compound precipitates. M. p. 219-220°C

17. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from 2-Chloro-pyrimidine and starting compound A1 as described for compound 11. Crystallisation from methanol. M. p. 163-166°C

18. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-ylmethyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from 7-Chloromethyl-chromen-2-one and starting compound A1 as described for compound 11. After the addition of water, the mixture is extracted with diethyl ether. The ether solution is dried over magnesium sulfate. After the addition of a saturated solution of hydrochloric acid in ether, the compound precipitates. M. p. 264-267°C

19. 4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-isopropyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from 2-iodopropane and starting compound A1 as described for compound 18.

M. p. 158-159°C

20. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from 4-(2-chloroacetyl)morpholine and starting compound A1 as described for compound 18.
M. p. 159-162°C

21. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-phenethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from 2-bromoethylbenzene and starting compound A1 as described for compound 18.
M. p. 216-217°C

22. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

Prepared from 4-morpholinocarbonyl chloride and starting compound A2 as described for compound 1.
Crystallisation from diethyl ether. M. p. 139-141°C

23. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-pyridin-3-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one dihydrochloride

Prepared from starting compound A1 and 3-picolyllchloride hydrochloride as described for compound 18. M. p. 252-254°C

24. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(1-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one dihydrochloride

Prepared from compound A1 and 2-picolyllchloride hydrochloride as described for compound 18.
M. p. 214-216°C

25. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethanoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from starting compound A5 and morpholine as described for compound 18.
M. p. 219°C (decomposition).

26. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-[2-[4-(2-dimethylamino-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-ethanoyl)-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one trihydrochloride

Prepared from starting compound A4 and dimethyl-(2-piperazin-1-yl-ethyl)-amine as described for compound 18. M. p. 195-197°C

27. 2-[4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl]-2H-isopropyl-acetamide

Prepared from starting compound A1 and N-(chloroacetyl)isopropylamine as described for compound 11. Crystallisation from ether. M. p. 172-173°C

28. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(4-1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one dihydrochloride

Prepared from starting compound A1 and 4-(4-Bromomethyl-phenyl)-[1,2,3]thiadiazole as described for compound 18. M. p. 243-245°C

29. 1-[1-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-methanoyl]-4-ethyl-piperazine-2,3-dione

Prepared from 4-ethyl-2,3-dioxo-piperazine-1-carbonyl chloride and starting compound A1 as described for compound 1. Crystallisation from ethyl acetate / diethyl ether. M. p. 226-228°C

30. 4-(2-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-ethanoylamino)-benzoic acid ethyl ester hydrochloride

Prepared from ethyl 4-(2-chloroacetamido)benzoate and starting compound A1 as described in example 18. M. p. 153-156°C

31. 2-{4-[(4aS, 8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2H-acetamide hydrochloride

Prepared from 2-chloroacetamide and starting compound A1 as described for compound 16. M. p. 241-243°C

Starting Compounds**A1. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-piperidin-4-yl-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride**

A solution of 50 mmol of the salt of (S)-(-)- α -methylbenzylamine and (cis)-2-(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acid (starting compound A8), 55 mmol of piperidin-4-yl-hydrazine dihydrochloride and 100 mmol of triethylamine in 150 ml of 1-propanol is refluxed for 18 h. After cooling to RT, the precipitate is filtered off and dried. M. p. 285-288°C

A2. (4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxy-phenyl)-2-piperidin-4-yl-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from the salt of (S)-(-)- α -methylbenzylamine and (cis)-2-(3,4-diethoxybenzoyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acid (starting compound A9) in 2-propanol as described for compound A1.

M. p. 248-250°C

A3. (cis)-4-(7-Methoxy-2,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-4-yl)-2-piperidin-4-yl-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one hydrochloride

Prepared from (cis)-2-(2,3-Dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-7-methoxybenzofuran-4 carbonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acid (starting compound A10) in 1-propanol as described for compound A1. After evaporating the solvent, the residue is partitioned between dichloromethane and aqueous sodium carbonate. The dichloromethane layer is dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated. The residue is dissolved in dichloromethane and after the addition of a solution of hydrochloric acid in ether, the compound precipitates. M. p. 288-290°C

A4. (4aS,8aR)-2-[1-(2-Chloro-acetyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4-(3,4-diethoxy-phenyl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one

A solution of 15 mmol of chloroacetylchloride in 10 ml of dichloromethane is added to a solution of 15 mmol of starting compound A2 and 8 ml of triethylamine in 50 ml of dichloromethane at 0°C. After complete addition, the mixture is stirred for another 45 min after which 50 ml of water is added. The dichloromethane solution is dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated. The residue is purified by chromatography. Elution with a 2/1 mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (60-80°C). Crystallisation from hexane. M. p. 135-136°C

A5. Piperidin-4-yl-hydrazine dihydrochloride

A mixture of 0.1 mole of 4-(N'-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-hydrazino)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (starting compound A6) and 150 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid is heated at 90°C for 60 min after which the clear solution is evaporated. The residue is washed with tetrahydrofuran, filtered off and dried under vacuum. M. p. 256-259°C

A6. 4-(N'-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-hydrazino)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

150 ml of a solution of borohydride in tertahydrofuran (1.0 mol/l) is slowly added to a solution of 0.12 mole of 4-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl-hydrazono)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (starting compound A7) in 100 ml of dry tetrahydrofuran. After complete addition, the mixture is stirred for another 30 min after which a 100 ml of water is added to destroy the excess of borohydride. Subsequently the tetrahydrofuran is evaporated and the resulting aqueous solution extracted with diethyl ether. After drying the solvent over magnesium sulfate, the ether is evaporated. M. p.112-115°C

A7. 4-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl-hydrazono)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

A mixture of 0.15 mole of 4-oxo-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester (commercially available) and 0.15 mole of tert-butylcarbazate in 250 ml of hexane is stirred for 18 h at RT. The precipitate is filtered off and dried under vacuum. M. p. 172-174°C

A8. (cis)-2-(3,4-Dimethoxybenzoyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acid

Prepared as described in WO98/31674.

A9. (cis)-2-(3,4-diethoxybenzoyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acid

Prepared as described in WO99/47505.

A10. (cis)-2-(2,3-Dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-7-methoxybenzofuran-4-carbonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzoic acid

Prepared as described in WO99/31090.

Commercial utility

The compounds according to the invention have useful pharmacological properties which make them industrially utilizable. As selective cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors (specifically of type 4), they are suitable on the one hand as bronchial therapeutics (for the treatment of airway obstructions on account of their dilating action but also on account of their respiratory rate- or respiratory drive-increasing action) and for the removal of erectile dysfunction on account of their vascular dilating action, but on the other hand especially for the treatment of disorders, in particular of an inflammatory nature, e.g. of the airways (asthma prophylaxis), of the skin, of the intestine, of the eyes, of the CNS and of the joints, which are mediated by mediators such as histamine, PAF (platelet-activating factor), arachidonic acid derivatives such as leukotrienes and prostaglandins, cytokines, interleukins, chemokines, alpha-, beta- and gamma-interferon, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) or oxygen free radicals and proteases. In this context, the compounds according to the invention are distinguished by a low toxicity, a good enteral absorption (high bioavailability), a large therapeutic breadth and the absence of significant side effects.

On account of their PDE-inhibiting properties, the compounds according to the invention can be employed in human and veterinary medicine as therapeutics, where they can be used, for example, for the treatment and prophylaxis of the following illnesses: acute and chronic (in particular inflammatory and allergen-induced) airway disorders of varying origin (bronchitis, allergic bronchitis, bronchial asthma, emphysema, COPD); dermatoses (especially of proliferative, inflammatory and allergic type) such as psoriasis (vulgaris), toxic and allergic contact eczema, atopic eczema, seborrhoeic eczema, Lichen simplex, sunburn, pruritus in the anogenital area, alopecia areata, hypertrophic scars, discoid lupus erythematosus, follicular and widespread pyodermias, endogenous and exogenous acne, acne rosacea and other proliferative, inflammatory and allergic skin disorders; disorders which are based on an excessive release of TNF and leukotrienes, for example disorders of the arthritis type (rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis and other arthritic conditions), disorders of the immune system (AIDS, multiple sclerosis), graft versus host reaction, allograft rejections, types of shock (septic shock, endotoxin shock, gram-negative sepsis, toxic shock syndrome and ARDS (adult respiratory distress syndrome)) and also generalized inflammations in the gastrointestinal region (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); disorders which are based on allergic and/or chronic, immunological false reactions in the region of the upper airways (pharynx, nose) and the adjacent regions (paranasal sinuses, eyes), such as allergic rhinitis/sinusitis, chronic rhinitis/sinusitis, allergic conjunctivitis and also nasal polyps; but also disorders of the heart which can be treated by PDE inhibitors, such as cardiac insufficiency, or disorders which can be treated on account of the tissue-relaxant action of the PDE inhibitors, such as, for example, erectile dysfunction or colics of the kidneys and of the ureters in connection with kidney stones. In addition, the compounds of the invention are useful in the treatment of diabetes insipidus and conditions associated with cerebral metabolic inhibition, such as cerebral senility, senile dementia (Alz-

heimer's disease), memory impairment associated with Parkinson's disease or multiinfarct dementia; and also illnesses of the central nervous system, such as depressions or arteriosclerotic dementia.

The invention further relates to a method for the treatment of mammals, including humans, which are suffering from one of the above mentioned illnesses. The method is characterized in that a therapeutically active and pharmacologically effective and tolerable amount of one or more of the compounds according to the invention is administered to the ill mammal.

The invention further relates to the compounds according to the invention for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of illnesses, especially the illnesses mentioned.

The invention also relates to the use of the compounds according to the invention for the production of medicaments which are employed for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of the illnesses mentioned.

The invention furthermore relates to medicaments for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of the illnesses mentioned, which contain one or more of the compounds according to the invention.

Additionally, the invention relates to an article of manufacture, which comprises packaging material and a pharmaceutical agent contained within said packaging material, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is therapeutically effective for antagonizing the effects of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase of type 4 (PDE4), ameliorating the symptoms of an PDE4-mediated disorder, and wherein the packaging material comprises a label or package insert which indicates that the pharmaceutical agent is useful for preventing or treating PDE4-mediated disorders, and wherein said pharmaceutical agent comprises one or more compounds of formula I according to the invention. The packaging material, label and package insert otherwise parallel or resemble what is generally regarded as standard packaging material, labels and package inserts for pharmaceuticals having related utilities.

The medicaments are prepared by processes which are known per se and familiar to the person skilled in the art. As medicaments, the compounds according to the invention (= active compounds) are either employed as such, or preferably in combination with suitable pharmaceutical auxiliaries, e.g. in the form of tablets, coated tablets, capsules, suppositories, patches, emulsions, suspensions, gels or solutions, the active compound content advantageously being between 0.1 and 95%.

The person skilled in the art is familiar with auxiliaries which are suitable for the desired pharmaceutical formulations on account of his expert knowledge. In addition to solvents, gel formers, ointment bases and other active compound excipients, for example antioxidants, dispersants, emulsifiers, preservatives, solubilizers or permeation promoters, can be used.

For the treatment of disorders of the respiratory tract, the compounds according to the invention are preferably also administered by inhalation in the form of an aerosol; the aerosol particles of solid, liquid or mixed composition preferably having a diameter of 0.5 to 10 μm , advantageously of 2 to 6 μm .

Aerosol generation can be carried out, for example, by pressure-driven jet atomizers or ultrasonic atomizers, but advantageously by propellant-driven metered aerosols or propellant-free administration of micronized active compounds from inhalation capsules.

Depending on the inhaler system used, in addition to the active compounds the administration forms additionally contain the required excipients, such as, for example, propellants (e.g. Frigen in the case of metered aerosols), surface-active substances, emulsifiers, stabilizers, preservatives, flavorings, fillers (e.g. lactose in the case of powder inhalers) or, if appropriate, further active compounds.

For the purposes of inhalation, a large number of apparatuses are available with which aerosols of optimum particle size can be generated and administered, using an inhalation technique which is as right as possible for the patient. In addition to the use of adaptors (spacers, expanders) and pear-shaped containers (e.g. Nebulator®, Volumatic®), and automatic devices emitting a puffer spray (Autohaler®), for metered aerosols, in particular in the case of powder inhalers, a number of technical solutions are available (e.g. Diskhaler®, Rotadisk®, Turbohaler® or the inhaler described in European Patent Application EP 0 505 321), using which an optimal administration of active compound can be achieved.

For the treatment of dermatoses, the compounds according to the invention are in particular administered in the form of those medicaments which are suitable for topical application. For the production of the medicaments, the compounds according to the invention (= active compounds) are preferably mixed with suitable pharmaceutical auxiliaries and further processed to give suitable pharmaceutical formulations. Suitable pharmaceutical formulations are, for example, powders, emulsions, suspensions, sprays, oils, ointments, fatty ointments, creams, pastes, gels or solutions.

The medicaments according to the invention are prepared by processes known per se. The dosage of the active compounds is carried out in the order of magnitude customary for PDE inhibitors. Topical application forms (such as ointments) for the treatment of dermatoses thus contain the active compounds in a concentration of, for example, 0.1-99%. The dose for administration by inhalation is customary between 0.1 and 3 mg per day. The customary dose in the case of systemic therapy (p.o. or i.v.) is between 0.03 and 3 mg/kg per day.

Biological investigations

The second messenger cyclic AMP (cAMP) is well-known for inhibiting inflammatory and immunocompetent cells. The PDE4 isoenzyme is broadly expressed in cells involved in the initiation and propagation of inflammatory diseases (H Tenor and C Schudt, in „Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors“, 21-40, „The Handbook of Immunopharmacology“, Academic Press, 1996), and its inhibition leads to an increase of the intracellular cAMP concentration and thus to the inhibition of cellular activation (JE Souness et al., Immunopharmacology 47: 127-162, 2000).

The antiinflammatory potential of PDE4 inhibitors *in vivo* in various animal models has been described (MM Teixeira, TiPS 18: 164-170, 1997). For the investigation of PDE4 Inhibition on the cellular level (*in vitro*), a large variety of proinflammatory responses can be measured. Examples are the superoxide production of neutrophilic (C Schudt et al., Arch Pharmacol 344: 682-690, 1991) or eosinophilic (A Hatzelmann et al., Brit J Pharmacol 114: 821-831, 1995) granulocytes, which can be measured as luminol-enhanced chemiluminescence, or the synthesis of tumor necrosis factor- α in monocytes, macrophages or dendritic cells (Gantner et al., Brit J Pharmacol 121: 221-231, 1997, and Pulmonary Pharmacol Therap 12: 377-386, 1999). In addition, the immunomodulatory potential of PDE4 inhibitors is evident from the inhibition of T-cell responses like cytokine synthesis or proliferation (DM Essayan, Biochem Pharmacol 57: 965-973, 1999). Substances which inhibit the secretion of the afore-mentioned proinflammatory mediators are those which inhibit PDE4. PDE4 inhibition by the compounds according to the invention is thus a central indicator for the suppression of inflammatory processes.

Method for measuring inhibition of PDE4 activity

PDE4 activity was determined as described by Thompson et al. (Adv Cycl Nucl Res 10: 69-92, 1979) with some modifications (Bauer and Schwabe, Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch Pharmacol 311: 193-198, 1980). At a final assay volume of 200 μ l (96well microtiter plates) the assay mixture contained 20 mM Tris (pH 7.4), 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 μ M cAMP, [³H]cAMP (about 30,000 cpm/assay), the test compound and an aliquot of cytosol from human neutrophils which mainly contains PDE4 activity as described by Schudt et al. (Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch Pharmacol 344: 682-690, 1991); the PDE3-specific inhibitor Motapizone (1 μ M) was included to suppress PDE3 activity originating from contaminating platelets. Serial dilutions of the compounds were prepared in DMSO and further diluted 1:100 (v/v) in the assays to obtain the desired final concentrations of the inhibitors at a DMSO concentration of 1 % (v/v) which by itself only slightly affected PDE4 activity.

After preincubation for 5 min at 37°C, the reaction was started by the addition of substrate (cAMP) and the assays were incubated for further 15 min at 37°C. 50 μ l of 0.2 N HCl was added to stop the reaction and the assays were left on ice for about 10 min. Following incubation with 25 μ g 5'-nucleotidase (*Crotalus atrox* snake venom) for 10 min at 37°C, the assays were loaded on QAE-Sephadex A-25 (1 ml bed

volume). The columns were eluted with 2 ml of 30 mM ammonium formate (pH 6.0) and the eluate was counted for radioactivity. Results were corrected for blank values (measured in the presence of denatured protein) which were below 5 % of total radioactivity. The amount of cyclic nucleotides hydrolyzed did not exceed 30 % of the original substrate concentration. The IC_{50} -values for the compounds according to the invention for the inhibition of the PDE4 activity were determined from the concentration-inhibition curves by nonlinear-regression.

The inhibitory values determined for the compounds according to the invention follow from the following table A, in which the numbers of the compounds correspond to the numbers of the examples.

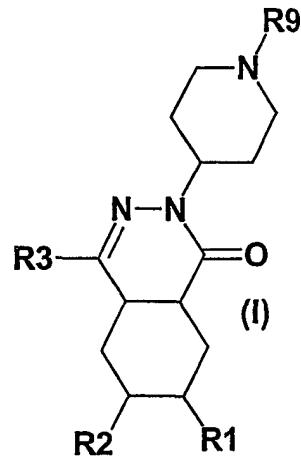
Table A

Inhibition of PDE4 activity [measured as $-\log IC_{50}$ (mol/l)]

compound	$-\log IC_{50}$
7	10.28
8	10.18
9	10.65
10	9.57
11	10.34
12	10.79
13	10.03
14	10.33
15	10.27
16	10.50
17	10.51
18	10.32
20	10.40
21	9.69
22	9.37
23	10.80
24	10.63
25	10.19
27	10.37
28	10.24
29	10.87
31	9.20

Patent claims

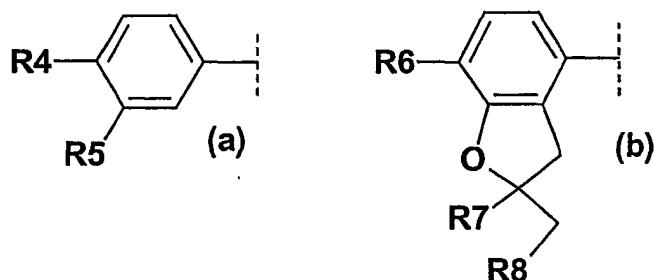
1. Compounds of formula I,



in which

R1 and R2 are both hydrogen or together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R5 is 1-8C-alkoxy, 3-7C-cycloalkoxy, 3-7C-cycloalkylmethoxy, or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R6 is 1-4C-alkoxy, 3-5C-cycloalkoxy, 3-5C-cycloalkylmethoxy, or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R7 is 1-4C-alkyl and

R8 is hydrogen or 1-4C-alkyl,

or wherein

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a spiro-linked 5-, 6- or 7-membered hydrocarbon ring, optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom,

R9 is 1-4C-Alkyl, -S(O)₂-R10, -S(O)₂-(CH₂)_n-R11, -(CH₂)_m-S(O)₂-R12, -C(O)R13, -C(O)-(CH₂)_n-R14, -(CH₂)_m-C(O)-R15, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-4C-alkyl-Aryl2,

R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19,

R11 is -N(R16)R17,

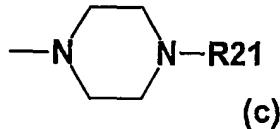
R12 is -N(R16)R17,

R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or -N(R16)R17,

R14 is -N(R16)R17,

R15 is -N(R16)R17, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,

R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-7C-alkyl, 3-7C-cycloalkyl, 3-7C-cycloalkylmethyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl-, 1-pyrrolidinyl-, 1-piperidinyl-, 1-hexahydroazepino- or a 1-piperazinyl-ring of formula (c)



wherein

R21 is pyrid-4-yl, pyrid-4-ylmethyl, 1-4C-alkyl-dimethylamino, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, 4-morpholino-ethyl or tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl,

R18 is halogen, nitro, cyano, carboxyl, 1-4C-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, 1-4C-alkoxy, 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- or di-1-4C-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl 1-4C-alkylcarbonylamino or mono- or di-1-4C-alkylaminocarbonyl,

R19 is halogen, amino, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,

R20 is halogen,

Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, thi-azolyl, imidazolyl or furanyl,

Aryl1 is pyridyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19,

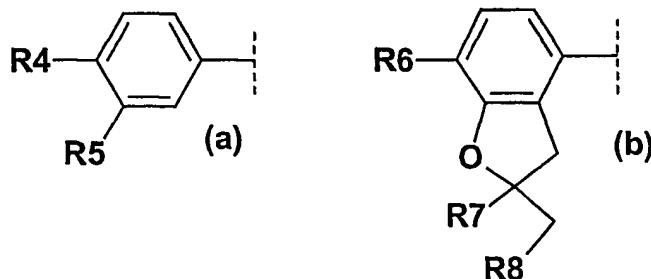
Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,

n is an integer from 1 to 4,

m is an integer from 1 to 4,

and the salts of these compounds.

2. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1, in which
R1 and R2 are both hydrogen or together form an additional bond,
R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
R5 is 1-8C-alkoxy, 3-7C-cycloalkoxy, 3-7C-cycloalkylmethoxy, or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
R6 is 1-4C-alkoxy, 3-5C-cycloalkoxy, 3-5C-cycloalkylmethoxy, or 1-4C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,
R7 is 1-4C-alkyl and
R8 is hydrogen or 1-4C-alkyl,

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a spiro-linked 5-, 6- or 7-membered hydrocarbon ring, optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom

R9 is $-\text{S(O)}_2\text{-R10}$, $-\text{S(O)}_2\text{-}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-R11}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{-S(O)}_2\text{-R12}$, $-\text{C(O)R13}$, $-\text{C(O)}\text{-}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-R14}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{-C(O)-R15}$, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-4C-alkyl-Aryl2.

R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19.

R11 is $\neg N(R16)R17$.

R12 is -N(R16)R17.

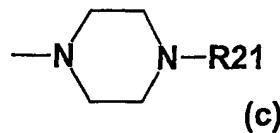
R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or -N(R16)R17.

R14 is -N(R16)R17.

R15 is -N(R16)R17, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20.

R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-7C-alkyl, 3-7C-cycloalkyl, 3-7C-cycloalkylmethyl or phenyl, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen

atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl-, 1-pyrrolidinyl-, 1-piperidinyl-, 1-hexahydroazepino- or a 1-piperazinyl-ring of formula (c)



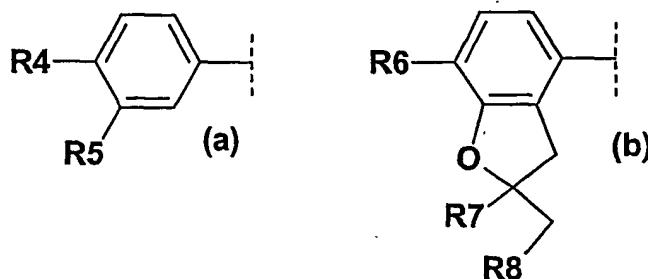
wherein

R21 is pyrid-4-yl, pyrid-4-ylmethyl, 1-4C-alkyl-dimethylamino, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, 4-morpholino-ethyl or tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl,
 R18 is halogen, nitro, cyano, carboxyl, 1-4C-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, 1-4C-alkoxy, 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- or di-1-4C-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl 1-4C-alkylcarbonylamino or mono- or di-1-4C-alkylaminocarbonyl,
 R19 is halogen, amino, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R20 is halogen,
 Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, thi-azolyl, imidazolyl or furanyl,
 Aryl1 is pyridyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19,
 Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,
 n is an integer from 1 to 4,
 m is an integer from 1 to 4,
 and the salts of these compounds.

3. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1, in which

R1 and R2 are both hydrogen or together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-2C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R5 is 1-4C-alkoxy,

R6 is 1-2C-alkoxy or 1-2C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R7 is methyl and

R8 is hydrogen,

or wherein

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a spiro-linked cyclopentane, cyclohexane, tetrahydrofuran or tetrahydropyran ring,

R9 is 1-4C-alkyl, -S(O)₂-R10, -S(O)₂-(CH₂)_n-R11, -C(O)R13, -C(O)-(CH₂)_n-R14, -(CH₂)_m-C(O)-R15, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-2C-alkyl-Aryl2,

R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,

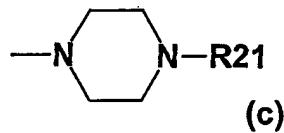
R11 is -N(R16)R17,

R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or -N(R16)R17,

R14 is -N(R16)R17,

R15 is -N(R16)R17, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,

R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-4C-alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl ring, a 1-piperidinyl ring or a 1-piperazinyl ring of formula (c)



wherein

R21 is pyrid-4-yl, pyrid-4-ylmethyl, dimethylamino-1-4C-alkyl, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, 4-morpholino-ethyl or tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl,

R18 is halogen, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, 1-4C-alkoxy or 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl,

R19 is halogen, amino, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,

R20 is halogen,

Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl or 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl,

Aryl1 is pyridyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,

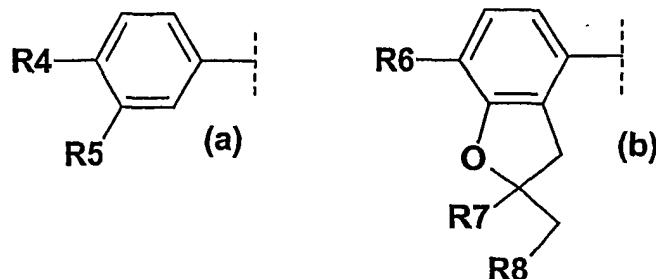
Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,

n is 1 or 2,

m is 1 or 2,

and the salts of these compounds.

4. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1, in which
R1 and R2 are both hydrogen or together form an additional bond,
R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-2C-alkoxy or 1-2C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R5 is 1-4C-alkoxy,

R6 is 1-2C-alkoxy or 1-2C-alkoxy which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine,

R7 is methyl and

R8 is hydrogen,

or wherein

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a spiro-linked cyclopentane, cyclohexane, tetrahydrofuran or tetrahydropyran ring,

R9 is $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{R}10$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{R}11$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}13$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{R}14$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R}15$, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-2C-alkyl-Aryl2,

R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,

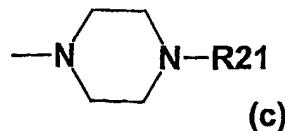
R11 is $-N(R16)R17$,

R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or -N(R16)R17,

R14 is -N(R16)R17,

R15 is -N(R16)R17, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,

R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-4C-alkyl or phenyl, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholiny-, 1-piperidiny or a 1-piperazinyl-ring of formula (c)



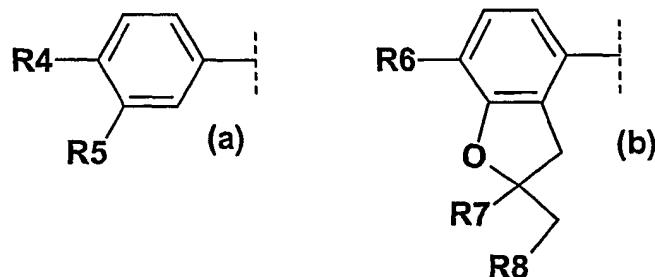
wherein

R21 is pyrid-4-yl, pyrid-4-ylmethyl, 1-4C-alkyl-dimethylamino, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, 4-morpholino-ethyl or tetrahydrofuran-2-ylmethyl,
 R18 is halogen, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl, trifluoromethyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R19 is halogen, amino, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R20 is halogen,
 Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl or 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl,
 Aryl1 is pyridyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,
 Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by R18, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,
 n is 1 or 2,
 m is 1 or 2,
 and the salts of these compounds.

5. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1, in which

R1 and R2 together form an additional bond,

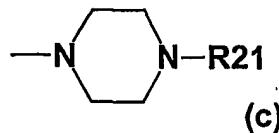
R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R5 is 1-4C-alkoxy,
 R6 is 1-2C-alkoxy,
 R7 is methyl and
 R8 is hydrogen,
 R9 is 1-4C-alkyl, -S(O)₂-R10, -C(O)R13, -C(O)-(CH₂)_n-R14, -(CH₂)_m-C(O)-R15, Hetaryl, Aryl1 or 1-2C-alkyl-Aryl2,
 R10 is 1-4C-alkyl, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalin-1-yl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,
 R13 is 1-4C-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-1-4C-alkyl, pyridyl, 4-ethyl-piperazin-2,3-dion-1-yl or -N(R16)R17,
 R14 is -N(R16)R17,
 R15 is -N(R16)R17, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20,

R16 and R17 are independent from each other hydrogen, 1-4C-alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18 and/or R19 and/or R20, or R16 and R17 together and with inclusion of the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 4-morpholinyl ring or a 1-piperazinyl ring of formula (c)



wherein

R21 is dimethylamino-1-4C-alkyl,

R18 is halogen, nitro, 1-4C-alkyl or 1-4C-alkoxycarbonyl,

R19 is amino,

R20 is halogen,

Hetaryl is pyrimidin-2-yl, thieno-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl or 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo-[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl,

Aryl1 is phenyl or phenyl substituted by R18,

Aryl2 is pyridyl, phenyl, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)phenyl,

n is 1 or 2,

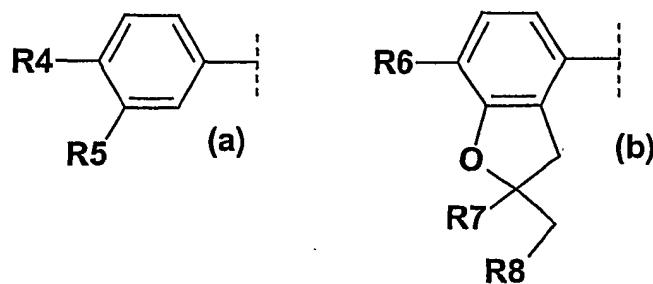
m is 1 or 2,

and the salts of these compounds.

6. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1, in which

R1 and R2 together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is methoxy or ethoxy,

R5 is methoxy or ethoxy,

R6 is methoxy or ethoxy,

R7 is methyl and

R8 is hydrogen,

R9 is toluene-4-sulfonyl, methanesulfonyl, acetyl, 5-oxo-pentanoic acid, pyridin-4-yl-carbonyl, tert-butylaminocarbonyl, phenylaminocarbonyl, 5-dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonyl,

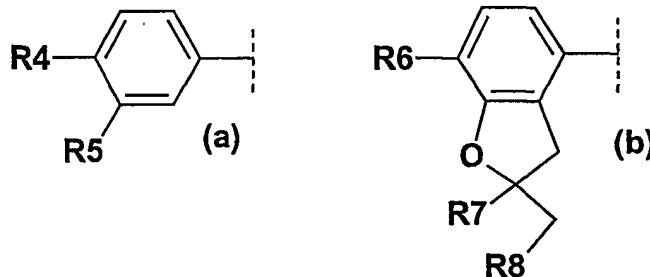
4-nitrophenyl, pyridin-4-ylmethyl, morpholine-4-carbonyl, 2-(4-amino-3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, pyrimidin-2-yl, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-ylmethyl, isopropyl, morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, phenethyl, pyridin-3-ylmethyl, pyridin-2-ylmethyl, pyridin-4-ylmethyl, 2-morpholin-4-ylethanoyl, 2-[4-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-ethanoyl, isopropylaminocarbonylmethyl, 4-ethyl-piperazine-2,3-dione-1-carbonyl, 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl-)benzyl, 4-ethoxycarbonylphenylamino-2-oxo-ethyl or amino-carbonylmethyl,

and the salts of these compounds.

7. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1, in which

R1 and R2 together form an additional bond,

R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

R4 is methoxy or ethoxy,

R5 is methoxy or ethoxy,

R6 is methoxy or ethoxy,

R7 is methyl and

R8 is hydrogen,

or wherein

R7 and R8 together and with inclusion of the two carbon atoms, to which they are bonded, form a cyclopentane or cyclohexan ring,

R9 is toluene-4-sulfonyl, methanesulfonyl, acetyl, 5-oxo-pentanoic acid, pyridin-4-yl-carbonyl, tert-butylaminocarbonyl, phenylaminocarbonyl, 5-dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonyl, 4-nitrophenyl, pyridin-4-ylmethyl, morpholine-4-carbonyl, 2-(4-amino-3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl, 1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl, pyrimidin-2-yl, 2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-ylmethyl, isopropyl, morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl, phenethyl, pyridin-3-ylmethyl, pyridin-2-ylmethyl, pyridin-4-ylmethyl, 2-morpholin-4-ylethanoyl, 2-[4-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-ethanoyl, isopropylaminocarbonylmethyl, 4-ethyl-piperazine-2,3-dione-1-carbonyl or 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl-)benzyl,

and the salts of these compounds.

8. Compounds of formula I according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 in which the hydrogen atoms in the positions 4a and 8a are cis-configurated.
9. Compounds of formula I according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 in which the absolute configuration (according to the rules of Cahn, Ingold and Prelog) is S in the position 4a and R in the position 8a.
10. Compounds of formula I according to one of the claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 in which R3 represents a benzene derivative of formula (a).
11. Compound of formula I according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-methanesulfonyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-2-(1-Acetyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4-(3,4-diethoxyphenyl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
5-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxy-phenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-5-oxo-pentanoic acid,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(1-pyridin-4-yl-methanoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butylamide,
4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid phenylamide,
4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butylamide,
(cis)-4-[4-(7-Methoxy-2,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-4-yl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butylamide,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(5-dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(4-nitro-phenyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,

(4aS,8aR)-2-{1-[2-(4-Amino-3,5-dichloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperidin-4-yl}-4-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-ylmethyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxo-ethyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-phenethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-pyridin-3-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(1-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethanoyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Diethoxyphenyl)-2-(1-{2-[4-(2-dimethylamino-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-ethanoyl}-piperidin-4-yl)-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
2-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2H-isopropyl-acetamide,
(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-[1-(4-1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl-benzyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-phthalazin-1-one,
1-(1-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-methanoyl)-4-ethyl-piperazine-2,3-dione,
4-(2-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-ethanoylamino)-benzoic acid ethyl ester,
2-{4-[(4aS,8aR)-4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1H-phthalazin-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-2H-acetamide and the salts of these compounds.

12. Compounds of formula I according to claim 1 for the treatment of diseases.
13. Medicaments containing one or more compounds of formula I according to claim 1 together with the usual pharmaceutical auxiliaries and/or carrier materials.

14. Use of compounds of the formula I according to claim 1 for the preparation of medicaments for the treatment of airway disorders.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01547

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07D401/04 C07D237/32 A61K31/50 C07D407/04 A61K31/4427
A61P29/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 31674 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;STERK GEERT JAN (NL)) 23 July 1998 (1998-07-23) cited in the application * see claim 1, defintion of R5 and R7 * the whole document ---	1-14
Y	WO 99 31071 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;STERK GEERT JAN (NL)) 24 June 1999 (1999-06-24) cited in the application * see claim 1, definition of R5 and R6 * the whole document ---	1-14
Y	WO 93 07146 A (SYNTEX INC) 15 April 1993 (1993-04-15) * see claim 1, definition of R1 * the whole document ---	1-14
-/-		

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 April 2002

Date of mailing of the International search report

03/05/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Stellmach, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01547

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 99 31090 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;ULRICH WOLF RUEDIGER (DE); STERK GEER) 24 June 1999 (1999-06-24) cited in the application * see claim 1, definition of R4,R5 and R6 * the whole document ---	1-14
Y	WO 99 47505 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;STERK GEERT JAN (NL); MEY MARGARETHA) 23 September 1999 (1999-09-23) cited in the application * see claim 1, definition of X,Y and R5 * the whole document ---	1-14
P,X	WO 01 30766 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;STERK JAN GEERT (NL)) 3 May 2001 (2001-05-03) the whole document ---	1-14
P,X	WO 01 30777 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;STERK JAN GEERT (NL)) 3 May 2001 (2001-05-03) the whole document ---	1-14
P,X	NORMAN P: "PDE4 INHIBITORS 2001. PATENT AND LITERATURE ACTIVITY 2000 – SEPTEMBER 2001" EXPERT OPINION ON THERAPEUTIC PATENTS, ASHLEY PUBLICATIONS, GB, vol. 1, no. 12, January 2002 (2002-01), pages 93-111, XP008002008 ISSN: 1354-3776 * see p.98, right col. - p.99, left col. * the whole document ---	1-14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01547

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9831674	A	23-07-1998		AU 735934 B2		19-07-2001
				AU 5862998 A		07-08-1998
				BR 9806752 A		14-03-2000
				CN 1249749 T		05-04-2000
				EE 9900274 A		15-02-2000
				WO 9831674 A1		23-07-1998
				EP 0971901 A1		19-01-2000
				HU 0001541 A2		28-05-2001
				JP 2001508078 T		19-06-2001
				NO 993301 A		10-09-1999
				PL 334561 A1		13-03-2000
				SK 95199 A3		10-12-1999
				TR 9901653 T2		21-10-1999
				US 6103718 A		15-08-2000
WO 9931071	A	24-06-1999		AU 1760399 A		05-07-1999
				WO 9931071 A1		24-06-1999
WO 9307146	A	15-04-1993		AT 183745 T		15-09-1999
				AU 670544 B2		25-07-1996
				AU 2781592 A		03-05-1993
				CA 2117059 A1		15-04-1993
				DE 69229874 D1		30-09-1999
				DE 69229874 T2		09-12-1999
				DK 612321 T3		13-12-1999
				EP 0612321 A1		31-08-1994
				ES 2105920 A1		16-10-1997
				ES 2135416 T3		01-11-1999
				FI 941567 A		06-04-1994
				GR 3030969 T3		30-11-1999
				HU 66969 A2		30-01-1995
				HU 9500113 A3		28-06-1995
				IL 103388 A		30-09-1997
				JP 3245165 B2		07-01-2002
				JP 7500321 T		12-01-1995
				KR 263494 B1		01-08-2000
				MX 9205794 A1		01-04-1993
				NO 941210 A		05-04-1994
				NZ 244660 A		26-05-1995
				PT 100938 A , B		29-10-1993
				WO 9307146 A1		15-04-1993
				US 5716954 A		10-02-1998
				ZA 9207755 A		08-04-1994
WO 9931090	A	24-06-1999		AU 2270199 A		05-07-1999
				CA 2314111 A1		24-06-1999
				EE 200000335 A		15-10-2001
				WO 9931090 A1		24-06-1999
				EP 1042319 A1		11-10-2000
				PL 341239 A1		26-03-2001
WO 9947505	A	23-09-1999		AU 3328499 A		11-10-1999
				CA 2323771 A1		23-09-1999
				WO 9947505 A1		23-09-1999
				EP 1070056 A1		24-01-2001
				JP 2002506856 T		05-03-2002
				US 6255303 B1		03-07-2001

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01547

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0130766	A 03-05-2001	AU WO	1515201 A 0130766 A1		08-05-2001 03-05-2001
WO 0130777	A 03-05-2001	AU WO	1515101 A 0130777 A1		08-05-2001 03-05-2001